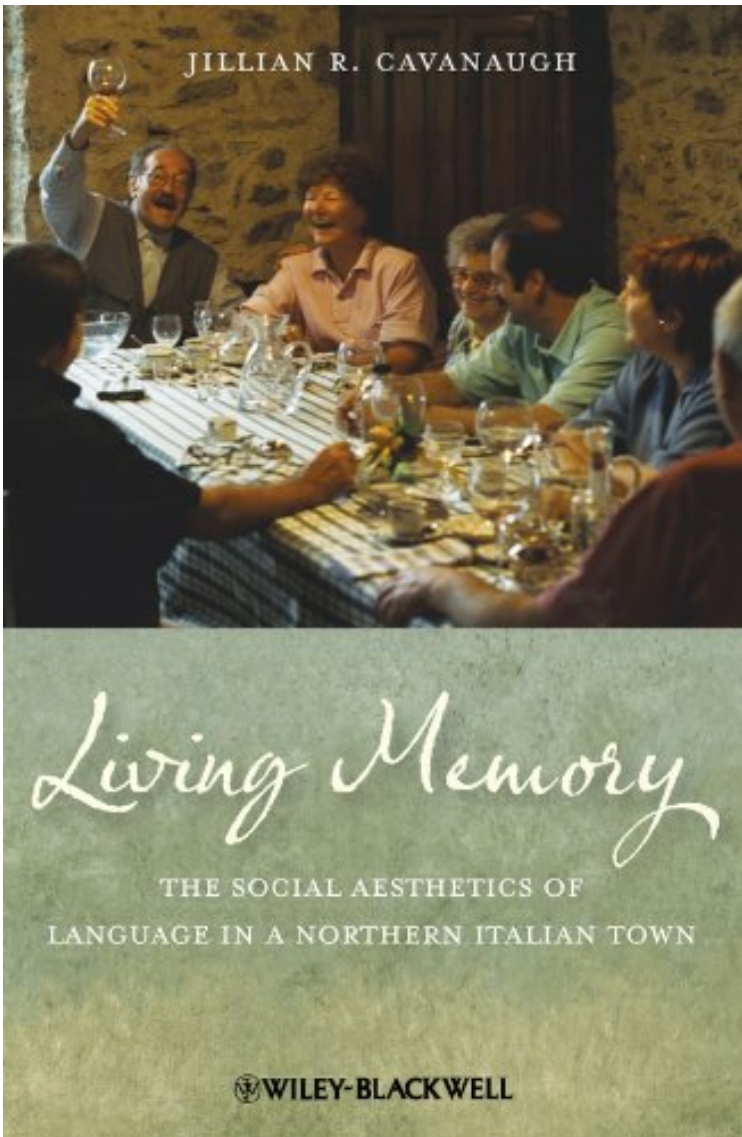


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Living Memory: The Social Aesthetics of Language in a Northern Italian Town



Par Jillian R. Cavanaugh
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Prsentation de l'diteurLiving Memory investigates the complex question of language and its place at the heart of Bergamasco culture in northern Italy. Integrates extensive participant observation with sociolinguistic data collection Reveals the political and social dynamics of a national language (Italian) and a local dialect (Bergamasco) struggling for survival Introduces the original concept of the social aesthetics of language: the interweaving of culturally-shaped and emotionally felt dimensions of language-choice Written to be accessible to students and specialists alike Part of the Blackwell Studies in Discourse and Culture

SeriesPresentation de l'diteurLiving Memory investigates the complex question of language and its place at the heart of Bergamasco culture in northern Italy. Integrates extensive participant observation with sociolinguistic data collection Reveals the political and social dynamics of a national language (Italian) and a local dialect (Bergamasco) struggling for survival Introduces the original concept of the social aesthetics of language: the interweaving of culturally-shaped and emotionally felt dimensions of language-choice Written to be accessible to students and specialists alike Part of the Blackwell Studies in Discourse and Culture SeriesQuatrimede couvertureLiving Memory investigates the complex question of language and its place at the heart of Bergamasco culture in northern Italy. As in other multilingual nationstates in Europe and elsewhere, linguistic revival and survival represent the promise of local solidarity, but also a threat to larger social and political relationships and unification. Jillian Cavanaugh offers an in depth look at this mixed or bivalent language use in Italy today. She describes how emotional and complex debates in Bergamo highlight the meaning and use of the Italian language and of Bergamasco, the local vernacular that is valued for its links to a particular local past, and its unique and powerful expression in poetry and plays. Utilizing ethnographic and sociolinguistic data, Cavanaugh brings together the multiple strands of meaning that make up the social aesthetics of language She shows the links between local language dynamics and ideologies and the pressing questions facing global communities today, revealing how an inquiry into the social aesthetics of language are important in understanding the values of tradition and modernity, the local and the national, the past and the present.